

New York City PHELAN SOOTHER IN IMMIGRATION BILL

Section Designating Aliens by
Geographical Area
Amended.

ADOPTED BY 42 TO 14

Senate Votes Down Effort to
Exclude Africans and
Other Blacks.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Another day in the Senate was given to the consideration of the immigration bill, but the measure was not disposed of and its consideration will be continued to-morrow.

The feature of the day was the adoption of an amendment offered by Senator Phelan of California, which was the subject of much debate. The amendment was proposed to the so-called Japanese amendment written into the bill in the Senate committee and recommended by the State Department to appease the Japanese Government. The Phelan amendment follows:

"Nothing in this act shall be construed to repeal any existing law, treaty or agreement in so far as such law, treaty or agreement serves to prohibit or restrict immigration into the United States or any possession thereof."

Japanese Irritation Feared.

Opponents of the amendment insisted it would irritate Japan and be misunderstood. Senator Phelan insisted that it would make clear the scope of the legislation and soothe the people of the Pacific coast. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 42 to 14.

The committee amendment prescribes certain geographical areas from which immigrants shall not be admitted instead of naming the races or nationalities, as was done in the bill as it passed the House.

During the debate Senator Lodge and Senator Phelan engaged in a lively colloquy, the former insisting that it was needless to insert in the bill any reference to agreements because they would not strengthen the position of the United States. "It is a great mistake," said Senator Lodge, "for this Congress to give wanton and needless offense to a friendly nation, by which we gain absolutely nothing."

Senator Phelan replied that after the bill had passed the House certain Japanese busybodies objected, and that he thought "this Government ought to be conducted from Washington, not from Tokio."

African Exclusion Defeated.

Senator Reed, Missouri, offered an amendment to exclude the immigrant of African descent. This was defeated.

Senator Vardaman's amendment offered yesterday reciting that the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the Federal Constitution enfranchising the negroes were improperly adopted and requesting the Attorney-General to lay before the Supreme Court the issue whether these amendments had been adopted in the form prescribed by the Constitution was also rejected. Six Democrats from Northern and Western States voted against the negro exclusion amendment—Husting, Martine, Pomerene, Shafrath, Thomas and Thompson.

The debate on the negro amendments led to some rather sharp race observations. Senator Hardwick, who opened the debate, declared that if he could write the immigration laws of the United States he would exclude all persons not of pure Caucasian blood. He insisted that this is "a white man's country."

An interesting amendment offered by Senator Phelan is aimed at what are known as the "picture brides." It would exclude women who come over from Japan to become the wives of Japanese residing in the United States, the courtship having been carried on by an exhibit of photographs. This amendment is still pending.

When the Senate adjourned there was pending another amendment by Senator Reed to exclude all persons who came to the United States for temporary employment as laborers, intending to return to their native land.

RACE QUESTION IS DISCUSSED

Immigration Bill Strikes

Snag In the Senate

The Guardian
PROPOSED AFRICAN EXCLUSION

12 - 16 = 16
Works' Notice of Right to Demand

Separate Vote on the Subject Leads
to Talk on Admission of Africans
and Jews—Puzzle For Supreme
Court to Solve

Washington, Dec. 12.—Unexpected opposition to the immigration bill developed in the senate, blocking progress on the measure and leading to a general argument over the question of exclusion of aliens on account of race.

Senator Works started the discussion by giving notice that he reserved the right to demand a separate vote on a senate committee amendment

providing for the exclusion of Hindus and other Asiatics by prescribing geographical areas from which immigrants shall not be admitted without enumerating races.

The amendment, recommended by the state department, after inquiries had been made by the Japanese government respecting provisions of the bill as it passed the house, eliminates all reference to the Root-Takahira passport agreement regulating Japanese immigration.

Works insisted that this would leave the United States at the mercy of Japanese dictation as to immigration from that country. As treaty rights are involved, the senate went into executive session for the debate, which lasted more than an hour without a vote.

In open session Senator Reed offered an amendment to include the continent of Africa within the limits set by the committee. He said he would favor any legislation which would keep out of the United States any persons not of pure white blood, but he did not think it proper for congress "to go by law and admit by diplomacy."

"I believe," said Reed, "the time has come when we ought to keep our country from being filled up with people not capable of becoming first class citizens of the United States, people who by birth, environments and disposition or by their great ignorance are not qualified to perform the duties of citizens."

Answering a question of Senator Gallinger as to whether Jews might not be as well excluded as negroes, Reed said:

"The Jews by race and by blood have been civilized for thousands of years. They sprang from the race that gave us our religion and the fundamentals of our laws. I am not seeking to open the old black and white issues in this country. It is plain that we should make an effort to protect our citizenship from an influx of

undesirables and keep out all not capable of thorough amalgamation." Senator Smith, in charge of the bill, produced statistics to show that in the last ninety-five years there have been only about 14,000 immigrants from Africa to this country.

"What you are really proposing in this amendment," suggested Senator Vardaman, "is to exclude people on account of race."

"I suspect you are right," said Smith, adding: "All we have tried to do is to avoid racial complication without running into national complications."

Vardaman introduced an amendment, setting forth that there is some doubt whether the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution, enfranchising the negro, were properly adopted, and directing the attorney general to lay the question before the supreme court to have it ascertain whether they were made part of the constitution in the manner provided for constitutional changes.

HINDUS AND ASIATICS

BARRED FROM COUNTRY

Constitution
But Not African Blacks—Senate Making Progress on Immigration Bill.

Washington, December 12.—After another day of debate over the exclusion of aliens on account of race, the senate late today adopted the committee amendment to the immigration bill which would bar Hindus and certain other Asiatics without mentioning them by name, with an added provision stipulating that nothing in the act shall be construed to repeal any existing law, treaty or agreement which serves to prohibit or restrict immigration. Senator Reed's amendment to exclude African blacks was defeated 32 to 37.

The Added Stipulation.

The added stipulation, proposed by Senator Phelan, of California, is designed to replace the direct reference to the so-called "gentlemen's agreement" with Japan, which was stricken out of the house bill by the senate committee at the request of the state department.

The committee amendment prescribes certain geographical areas from which immigrants shall not be admitted, instead of naming the races or nationalities, as was done in the bill as it passed the house.

During the debate Senator Lodge and Senator Phelan engaged in a lively colloquy, the former insisting that it was needless to insert in the bill any reference to agreements, because they would not strengthen the position of the United States.

"It is a great mistake," said Senator Lodge, "for this congress to give wanton and needless offense to a friendly nation by which we gain absolutely nothing."

Senator Phelan declared that after the bill had passed the house certain Japanese busybodies objected, and that he thought "this government ought to be conducted from Washington, not from Tokio."

The Phelan provision prevailed without a roll call and the committee amendment as modified was adopted by a vote of 42 to 14, western senators voting against it.

Senator Phelan gave notice that he would offer another amendment to prohibit entrance of so-called Japanese "picture brides" into the United States.

"Tempest in Teapot."

Senator Williams, of Mississippi, during the debate declared he could not see why such a "tempest in a teapot" was being made over the Japanese question, particularly when Japan has lived up to its agreement and as a government has treated us in the best possible way.

"The trouble here with some of you," said he, "is that you are willing to declare the United States to be a white

man's country in one instance and not in another. Some of you who are shouting loudest now about Japanese exclusion voted a little while ago against exclusion of negroes from this country. You stand around and raise international complications about the Japanese, who are higher civilized than you are, but dare not, because of local conditions, declare as to the negro that this is a white man's country. I am alluding not only to western republicans, but also to northern democrats, when I declare that you are willing to say 'this is a white man's country in a way, but please don't offend the negro voter in my district.'"

When the senate adjourned there was pending an amendment by Senator Reed to exclude all persons who come to the United States for temporary employment as laborers, intending to return to their native land.

REJECT AFRICAN EXCLUSION

The Guardian
The Vote.

Washington, Dec. 12, 1916.—The Senate, by a vote of 37 to 32, this afternoon, rejected Senator Reed's amendment to the immigration bill excluding all natives of Africa. The West Indies exclusion amendment was lost, 36 to 28.

Amendments offered by Senator Reed of Missouri to extend exclusion to natives of Africa and all but white natives of the West Indies and islands of the Atlantic ocean, were rejected.